

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, January 31, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,711,285,168,951.46 (Five trillion, seven hundred eleven billion, two hundred eighty-five million, one hundred sixty-eight thousand, nine hundred fifty-one dollars and forty-six cents).

Five years ago, January 31, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,815,827,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred fifteen billion, eight hundred twenty-seven million).

Ten years ago, January 31, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$2,974,584,000,000 (Two trillion, nine hundred seventy-four billion, five hundred eighty-four million).

Fifteen years ago, January 31, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,679,916,000,000 (One trillion, six hundred seventy-nine billion, nine hundred sixteen million).

Twenty-five years ago, January 31, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$494,140,000,000 (Four hundred ninety-four billion, one hundred forty million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,217,145,168,951.46 (Five trillion, two hundred seventeen billion, one hundred forty-five million, one hundred sixty-eight thousand, nine hundred fifty-one dollars and forty-six cents) during the past 25 years.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting a treaty and sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON THE U.S. ARCTIC RESEARCH PLAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 80

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the provisions of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984, as amended (15 U.S.C. 4108(a)), I transmit herewith the sixth biennial revision (2000–2004) to the United States Arctic Research Plan.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 1, 2000.

REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION 99-37 RELATIVE TO THE AIR FORCE'S OPERATING LOCATION NEAR GROOM LAKE, NEVADA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 81

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 6001(a) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) (the "Act"), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6961(a), notification is hereby given that on September 20, 1999, I issued Presidential Determination 99-37 (copy enclosed) and thereby exercised the authority to grant certain exemptions under section 6001(a) of the Act.

Presidential Determination 99-37 exempted the United States Air Force's operating location near Groom Lake, Nevada, from any Federal, State, interstate, or local hazardous or solid waste laws that might require the disclosure of classified information concerning that operating location to unauthorized persons. Information concerning activities at the operating location near Groom Lake has been properly determined to be classified, and its disclosure would be harmful to national security. Continued protection of this information is, therefore, in the paramount interest of the United States.

The determination was not intended to imply that in the absence of a Presidential exemption, RCRA or any other provision of law permits or requires the disclosure of classified information to unauthorized persons. The determination also was not intended to limit the applicability or enforcement of any requirement of law applicable to the Air Force's operating location near Groom Lake except those provisions, if any, that would require the disclosure of classified information.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 31, 2000.

REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND LATVIA CONCERNING FISHERIES OFF THE COASTS OF THE U.S.—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 82

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committees on Environment and Public Works; and Foreign Relations.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), I transmit herewith an Agreement between the Government of the

United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Latvia extending the Agreement of April 8, 1993, Concerning Fisheries Off the Coasts of the United States, with annex, as extended (the "1993 Agreement"). The present Agreement, which was effected by an exchange of notes at Riga on June 7 and September 27, 1999, extends the 1993 Agreement to December 31, 2002.

In light of the importance of our fisheries relationship with the Republic of Latvia, I urge that the Congress give favorable consideration to this Agreement at an early date.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 31, 2000.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:20 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1733. An act to amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to provide for a national standard of interoperability and portability applicable to electronic food stamp benefit transactions.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 244. Concurrent resolution permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2130) to amend the Controlled Substances Act to add gamma hydroxybutyric acid and ketamine to the schedules of controlled substances, to provide for a national awareness campaign, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the resolution (H. Con. Res. 221) authorizing printing of the brochures entitled "How Our Laws Are Made" and "Our American Government," the pocket version of the United States Constitution, and the document-sized, annotated version of the United States Constitution."

The message further announced that pursuant to section 702(b) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2000 (50 U.S.C. 401) and the order of the House of Thursday, November 18, 1999, the Speaker on Wednesday, January 12, 2000, appointed the following Member of the House to the National Commission for the Review of the National Reconnaissance Office: Mr. Goss of Florida; and from private life: Mr. Eli S. Jacobs of New York and Mr. Larry D. Cox of Maryland.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 5(a) of the Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering and Technology Development Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a) and the order of the House